

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 13 and 16 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors only. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not acknowledge receipt of the priority document in this Application. Applicants submit that a certified copy of the priority document was filed in parent Application No. 09/942,953, now abandoned. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 was objected to because method claim 13 inappropriately depended from apparatus claim 9. Applicants have amended claim 13 to correct this typographical error. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 13 to depend from claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because there is no antecedent basis for the term “the alcohol.” Applicants have amended claim 16 to correct the typographical error. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 16 to depend from claim 14 not claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bisschops et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,630) in view of Fujioka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,593,800). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection at least because Bisschops is not prior art.

The effective filing date under § 102 of Bisschops is after Applicant’s priority date of September 4, 2000. Therefore, Bisschops is not prior art. To perfect the claim for priority made herein, Applicants submit that the English language priority document was submitted in the parent application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 13 and 15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, in view of the foregoing, all the claims (1-17) are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Appendix



APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 13 and 16 have been amended as follows:

13. (Amended) A method according to claim [9] 10, wherein said mirror comprises at least 40 multilayers and wherein the method further comprises adapting the amount of gaseous hydrocarbon supplied to the space such that at least part of at least a top layer of said mirror undergoes sputtering.

16. (Amended) A method according to claim [13] 14, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.

End of Appendix

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